

Appl. No. : 10/826,891
Filed : April 16, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the present application and are presented for reconsideration and further examination in view of the following remarks.

Claims Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Soumyanath et al. et al. (US 6,218,892). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Soumyanath et al. relates to circuit having a differential amplifier and body bias control circuitry. In Soumyanath et al. et al., the external circuitry (body control circuitry 30) biases the well of a transistor by applying a body bias voltage signal to the body. (See at least the abstract; col. 2, lines 20-25; and independent Claims 1, 13, 16, 18, 22, and 27). In contrast to applying a bias voltage, Claim 1 recites, for example, “biasing said well by drawing said determined bias current from said well with said external circuitry.” At least this feature is not disclosed in or taught by the applied reference. Moreover, Soumyanath et al. et al. neither teaches nor suggests “determining a bias current to be drawn from said well” as recited in Claim 1.

The Office Action cites to col. 3, lines 59-60 and col. 5, lines 36-52 of Soumyanath et al. et al. for teaching these features. Applicant respectfully disagrees. For example, in col. 5, lines 36-52 Soumyanath et al. et al. discloses a current from drain to source, not a current drawn from the well. Accordingly for at least these reasons, Claim 1 is not anticipated by Soumyanath et al. et al.

With respect to independent Claim 4, Applicant submits that Soumyanath et al. et al. at least does not disclose or teach “a transistor current source coupled to at least said well of said first MOS transistor so as to draw a current from said well” as recited in Claim 4. The Office Action cites the body control circuitry 30 in Soumyanath et al. as disclosing the claimed feature. Applicant respectfully disagrees. First, as discussed above, the body control circuitry 30 is not configured to “draw a current from said well”. Second, Soumyanath et al. does not disclose or teach that the body control circuitry comprises a transistor current source or even a transistor. Therefore, Claim 4 is not anticipated by Soumyanath et al.

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With respect to independent Claim 6, Applicant submits that Soumyanath et al. at least does not disclose or teach “a current drawn from the wells is substantially the same, and wherein the well potentials are different” as recited in Claim 6. The Office Action cites Figures 1 and 5 in Soumyanath et al. as disclosing the claimed feature. Applicant respectfully disagrees. First, Soumyanath et al. does not disclose or teach drawing a current from the wells as discussed above. Though the wells in Figures 1 and 5 are connected to the control circuitry 30, the body control circuitry 30 is not configured to draw a current from the wells. Second, in Figures 1 and 5, even assuming that substantially the same current is drawn from transistors M1 and M2, Soumyanath et al. does not disclose or teach that “the well potentials are different”. In fact, Soumyanath et al. teaches the opposite. M1 and M2 have the same well potentials since the control circuitry 30 applies the same voltage signal to the wells of M1 and M2. Therefore, Claim 6 is not anticipated by Soumyanath et al.

With respect to independent Claim 8, Applicant submits that Soumyanath et al. at least does not disclose or teach “forward biasing said transistor wells with a common current but not a common potential” as recited in Claim 8. As discussed above with respect to Claim 6, Soumyanath et al. does not disclose or teach either forward biasing said transistor wells with a current, or that the potentials of these wells are different. Therefore, Claim 8 is not anticipated by Soumyanath et al.

With respect to independent Claim 9, Applicant submits that Soumyanath et al. at least does not disclose or teach “said wells on each wafer are connected to current sources on each wafer” as recited in Claim 9, for the same reasons stated above that support the patentability of Claim 4. Moreover, Soumyanath et al. does not disclose or teach “said current sources are configured to forward bias said wells by drawing substantially the same current from said wells” as recited in Claim 9, for the same reasons stated above that support the patentability of Claims 4 and 6. Therefore, Claim 9 is not anticipated by Soumyanath et al.

Accordingly, Soumyanath et al. does not teach or suggest the features recited by Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, and 9. The applied prior art of record does not cure the deficiencies in Soumyanath et al. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of independent Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, and 9. Dependent Claims 2-3, 5, and 7 depend directly from one of Claims 1, 4, and 6 and, thus,

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are patentable for at least the same reasons that the claims from which they depend are patentable over the art of record. Therefore, allowance of Claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly requested.


The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the noted rejections and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if an issue requires clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney, James Herkenhoff at (619) 687-8663 (direct line), in order to resolve any such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11 1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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